

SEVERITY FOR WOMEN RIOTERS

WOMEN PROTEST

Suffragette Leaders to Be

spiracy.

HEADQUARTERS RAIDED

Up on a Felony Charge.

MISS PANKHURST ALSO

Hard Labor Sentences Meted Out to Window Smashers in the Police Courts.

ANOTHER DAY OF RIOTING

**Viragos Fought Police All Over London
—Public Heartily Indorses Real
Punishment for Them.**

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, March 5.—The Government
has decided at last to take strong action
against the "Viragos," the London street
gangs, who have been terrorizing the
city for some time.

against the militant suffragette leaders by arraigning them on a charge of conspiracy. A beginning was made to-night when Inspector McCarthy and a large staff of detectives raided the headquarters of the Women's Social and Political Union, armed with warrants for the arrest of Mrs. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Christabel Pankhurst.

not present. The Lawrences were taken to Bow Street police court, where they were formally charged with conspiracy. They will be arraigned in the same court to-morrow. Miss Pankhurst was also arrested at a late hour at her home.

Meanwhile a section of the detective took formal possession of the office of the union and seized all the books and papers, which they took to Scotland Yard to be examined. Then they raided up the offices.

The specific charge against the persons arrested-to-night is conspiring to incite certain persons to commit malicious damage to property. The maximum penalty is seven years penal servitude.

Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, who is now in Holloway Jail, is included in the conspiracy charges with the others. She will be arraigned with the others at Bow street police court to-morrow morning. It is understood that warrants are out for other leaders of the militant

Miss Vaughan, the assistant editor of the suffragette paper, *Votes for Women*, was present in the union rooms, but was not arrested. To an interviewer she spoke in the same strain as Miss Pankhurst did yesterday, declaring that the militant ones gloried in their window smashing and that they would resort to even more dangerous tactics.

She said that if the Government thought it was going to crush the women by making arrests and charging them with conspiracy it was greatly mistaken. On the contrary this action would bring an immense accession of supporters to the militant movement.

To-night's action by the police was the result of consultation with Prime Minister Asquith and the Attorney General. The exact line of procedure against the union has not yet been indicated, but it is assumed that it will include the attachment of the funds of

The bulk of the public will receive the news of the Government's new move with satisfaction and relief. Numerous hard labor sentences which have already been passed upon window smashers have been greeted with hearty applause in the courts and everywhere else. The semi-amusement which the past escapades of the women created has given way to anger and indignation. Apart from the damage to glass and the goods in window

The process of stern repression was begun with a big crop of prisoners who were sent up in the police courts. Hard labor sentences were freely handed out for the fear that they would get mixed up in some of the riots.

To-day Bow street police court was jammed with the women arrested in last night's demonstration. Most of them were bound over for hearings later. Two Victoria Simmons and Lillian Ball, well known leaders, were sentenced to two months imprisonment with hard labour.

The Magistrate has 150 cases against the suffragettes still to deal with, eighty-seven of them arising from the riots of last Friday, when the accused caused damage to the extent of \$25,000, and seventy for last night's disturbances. It is expected that all who seem unrepentant will get good doses of hard labor.

The *Times* demands to-day that all the leaders of the suffragettes be prosecuted on charges of conspiracy to break the law. This is a felony punishable by sentence

up to seven years. The Government has hesitated thus far to act so severely.